

ACTION  
GIRL  
COMICS

SHE'S

# Action Girl



\$2.75

NO. 2  
JAN.

SED



ANOTHER GREAT ACTION GIRL ANTHOLOGY

FEATURING: ELIZABETH WATASIN! SARAH DYER! PATTY LEIDY!  
LEANNE FRANSON! CHANTALE DOYLE! AND MANY MORE!

# Action Girl

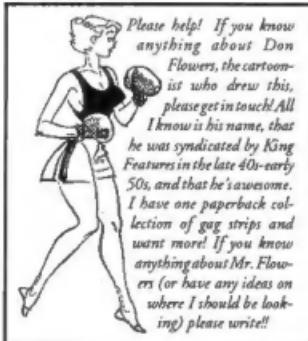
## COMICS

WELCOME!! Hello, you have discovered the second issue of *Action Girl Comics*, a new anthology showcasing female cartoonists. AGC has an all-ages sensibility, with more than a slight punk/DIY influence. Girl-positive and female-friendly — never anti-boy. As far as content — well, the best way to explain it would probably be to say that it is not exactly an anthology. It is more like a zine — it is wholly *my* comic, not some publisher's collection of stuff. The material contained in this book is hand-picked by me and will always reflect my sensibilities (which include: printing stories on subjects that are more universal in theme; and providing a place for a new generation of cartoonists to be discovered — personally, I'm thrilled to have stories from my own punk/post-punk generation to read, even if I had to print them myself.) This is no way means that you have to be into any of the things I've named, or even understand them — the most important facet of *Action Girl* is accessibility. Inclusion, not exclusion, that's my goal. So please enjoy, no matter who or what you are!

**SAY HELLO TO ACTION GIRL:** Please note that the address listed below is NEW, if you read the first issue. The only difference is the number of the POBox (060456=bad, 060380=good). We are also online at last thanks to my mom's patient pestering. You can actually e-mail me (I can hardly believe it myself) at [Alilena@aol.com](mailto:Alilena@aol.com). I had planned to use "ActionGirl" but not only did someone ruin it for me, but after a few sessions with my brother's screen name, I discovered that if anything can be taken sexually it will be. So that's why I didn't.

**(NOT SO) SECRET ORIGIN:** *Action Girl Comics* is an outgrowth of my long-running Action Girl projects, which all started with a newsletter I began publishing in 1992 (a guide to projects produced by girls, grrrls and women — boy-friendly but very pro-girl). After listing a ton of great minis by women that no-one knew about, I decided I wanted to start collecting their work in comic form. Interestingly enough, I named the newsletter after a comic character I'd created — and now she's come full circle. In this issue we even have a short story in which she appears — her next adventure will take place in issue #4!

**PEP TALK:** Remember — ACTION IS EVERYTHING! Our society, even when it's trying to be "alternative" usually just promotes a consumerist mentality. Buying things isn't evil, but if that's all you do, your life is pretty pointless. Be an ACTION GIRL (or boy)! It's great to read / listen to / watch other people's creative output, but it's even cooler to do it yourself. Don't think you can do comics? Try anyway, even if they're just for yourself! Or maybe think about writing for a zine, or working at shows or benefits. Volunteer! Learn to sew! Not everyone is suited to doing projects on their own, but everyone has something to contribute. So go out and do something with all that positive energy!



Please help! If you know anything about Don Flowers, the cartoonist who drew this, please get in touch! All I know is his name, that he was syndicated by King Features in the late 40s-early 50s, and that he's awesome. I have one paperback collection of gag strips and want more! If you know anything about Mr. Flowers (or have any ideas on where I should be looking) please write!!

**WRAP-UP:** Quick thanks — Evan Dorkin for being swell; my Action Brother and new roommate Tim; all my fabulous contributors; Roberta Gregory for all the support (and the interview); Elim for making me buy things. And of course, YOU! Insert obligatory "what I listen to list" here — Skinned Teen (Lookout! split CD), Mambo Taxi, Pizzicato Five (*Overdose* CD), Wanda Jackson, *History of Mothra*, Hoodlum Empire, and the Star Wars Xmas album which we found for \$1 this week (well, actually we couldn't handle it for more than about 20 seconds at a time so I don't know if it counts). Cover designed/executed/colored by moi; illustration by Elizabeth Watasin. See you in three months!

Send letters, comments, submissions, and presents of Sanrio to:

**Sarah Dyer, AGC**

**PO Box 060380, Staten Island NY 10304.**

e-mail: [Alilena@aol.com](mailto:Alilena@aol.com)



**Action Girl Comics #2 — January 18, 1995** Created and edited by Sarah Dyer. Published by Slave Labor Graphics. President: Dan "Green Ranger" Vado; Publisher: Craig Pape. Action Girl title and character © & ™ 1995 Sarah Dyer. All contents © 1995 by the respective artists and writers. No part of this magazine may be reproduced, except for purposes of review. Any similarity to persons living or dead is satirical in nature or a total coincidence. Printed in Canada.



**Second Printing - October 1995**

dogone





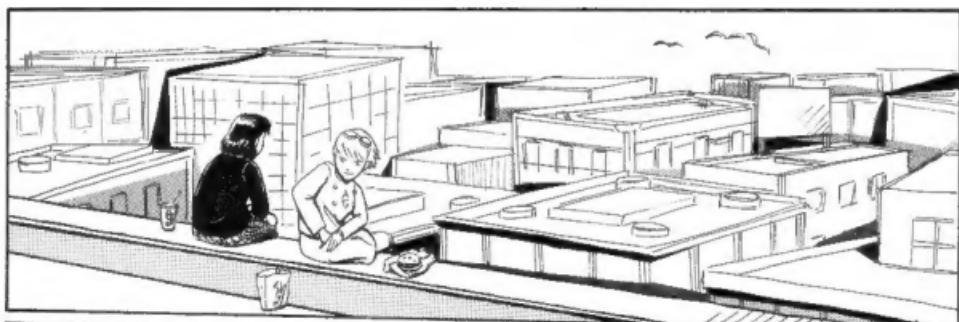
**MORTALITY**

WITH  
**ACTION GIRL**



AND WITH  
FLYING  
GIRL

ELIZABETH (94)



I SHOULD GET GOGGLES. I CAN FLY REALLY FAST BUT IT'S HARD ON MY EYES.



REALLY? AS FAST AS JETS?!

NOT THAT FAST.

CAN YOU FLY WAY UP THERE, WITH PLANES?



I TRIED TO GO AS FAR UP AS I COULD, ONCE. THERE'S A POINT WHERE I CAN'T BREATHE, BUT JUST BELOW THERE ARE THESE CURRENTS THE BIRDS RIDE, AND I CAN FLOAT ON THOSE PRACTICALLY ALL DAY, LOOKING AT THE EARTH.

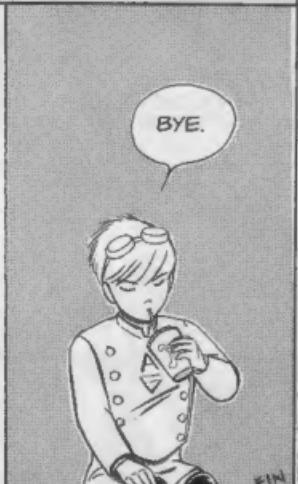
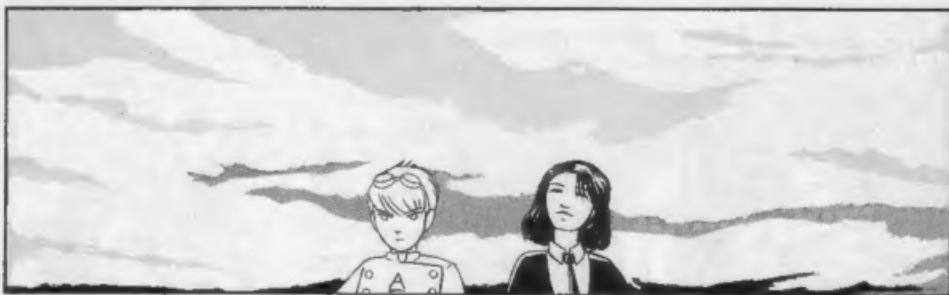
THE WORLD LOOKS WONDERFUL FROM UP THERE. EVERYTHING'S SMALL AND KIND OF TIDY. THAT'S JUST AN ILLUSION, OF COURSE, BUT IT MAKES THINGS SORT OF UNDERSTANDABLE, SOMETIMES.

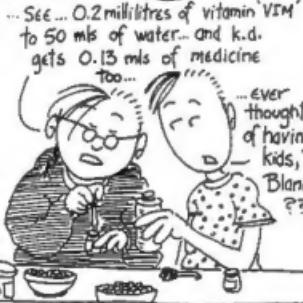
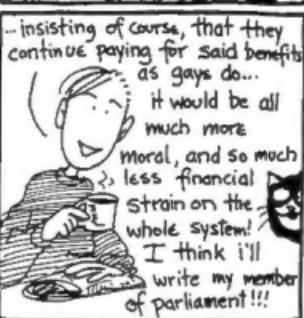
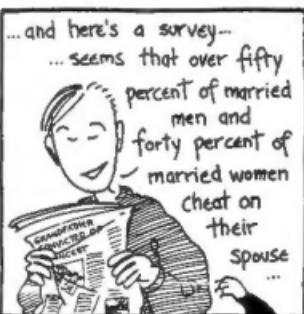
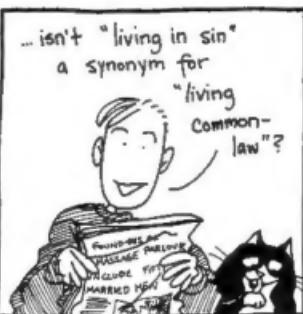
MY DAD DOESN'T LIKE IT WHEN I GO UP. HE'S AFRAID I'LL LOSE CONSCIOUSNESS, AND START TO FALL.



AND ... HURT YOURSELF.







# beautiful

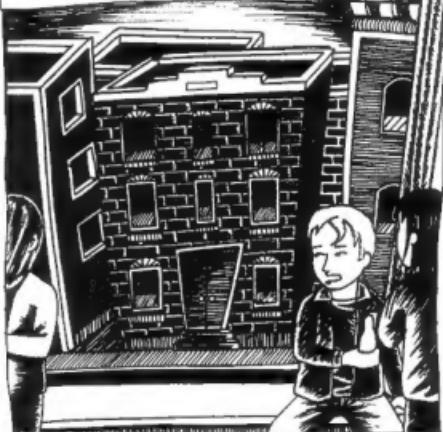
The sun is coming up  
over the city



a couple is kissing  
in the corner



She is talking to  
someone who doesn't care



Some one else is leaving  
without saying goodbye



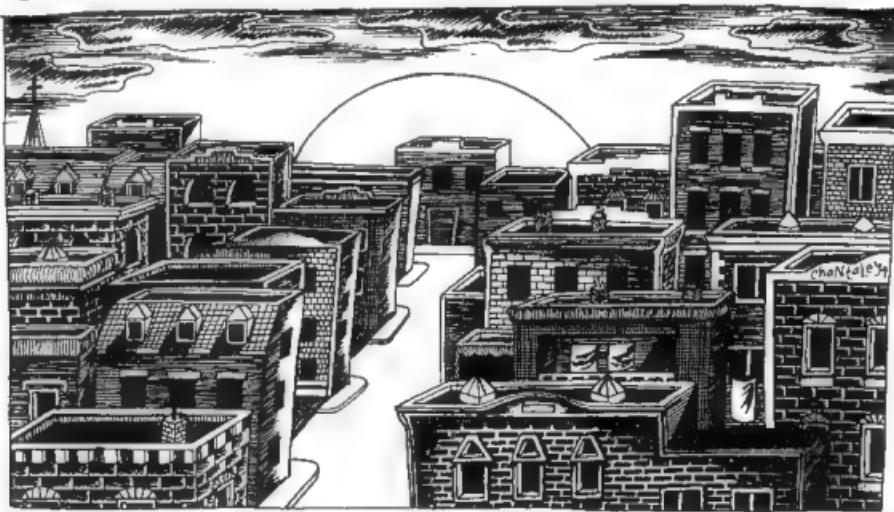
the conversation has turned to laughter.



I'm just sitting here watching the sun rise,



isn't it the most beautiful thing you've ever seen?





### New Years Resolutions

- 1) START EATING RIGHT! CUT DOWN ON CHIPS!
- 2) STOP PROcrastinating ON MY ART Projects!!!



GREAT, MY FIRST DAY ON THE JOB-AN' WHAT DO I DO ALL DAY? SELL STUFF TO LITTLE SPONT-WANNABES!



THIS, URK? IS GONNA KILL THE GUYS BACK AT THE DORM! HEE-HEE...

URK-OH! OH-UM I AM BLEEDIN' UH HEY LADY YOU HELP ME OK?



NEH-YEAH...

CHEER-OH IT'S ALL RIPPED! I'LL FIX THAT UP!

HOLD STILL!



YET ANOTHER FASHION VICTIM...



HEYA, COOL HAIRCUT. WHATCHA DOIN'?



LOOK CLOSER! WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE?



BUT DON'T YOU GET TIRED OF WEARING BLACK ALL THE TIME?

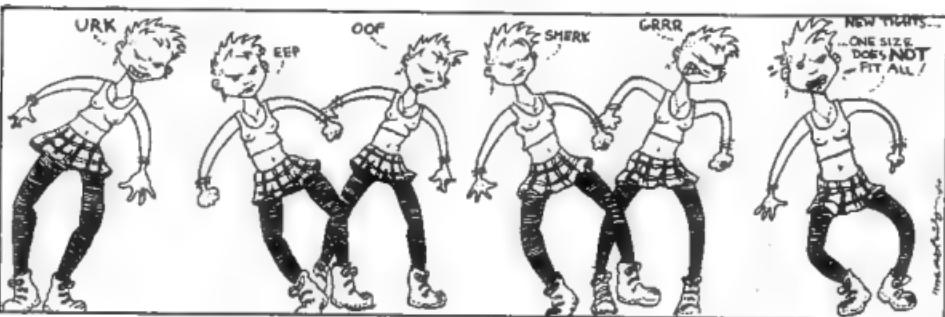


NO IT ISN'T! IT'S ALL COLORS PUT TOGETHER IN WEARING ALL OF THEM AT ONCE! DON'T YOU SEE?

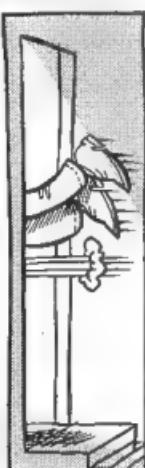
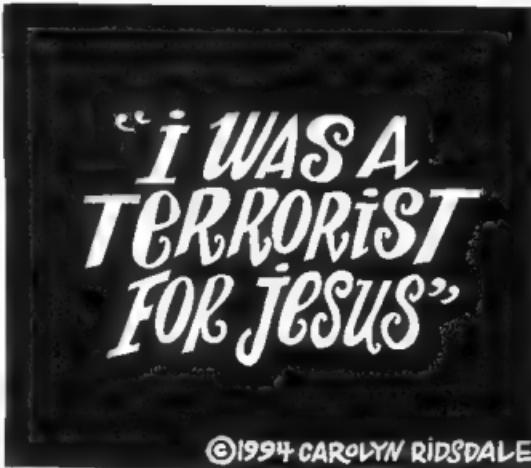
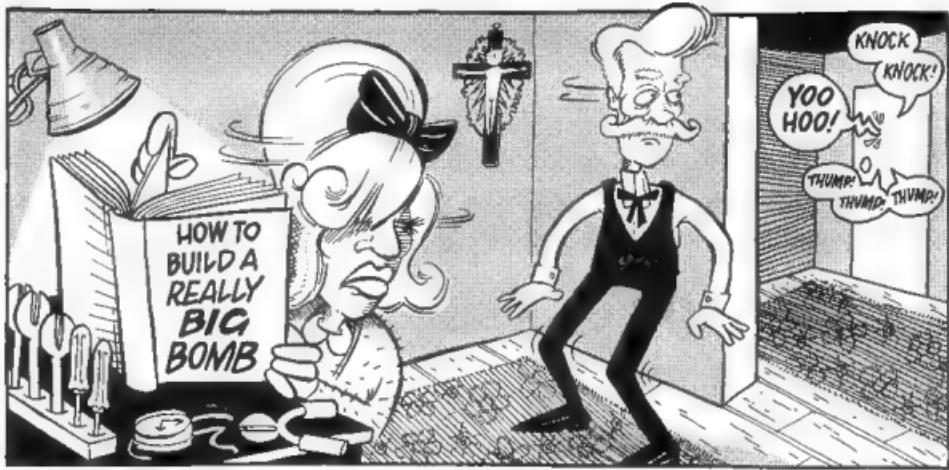


JESUS, THAT'S SICK!

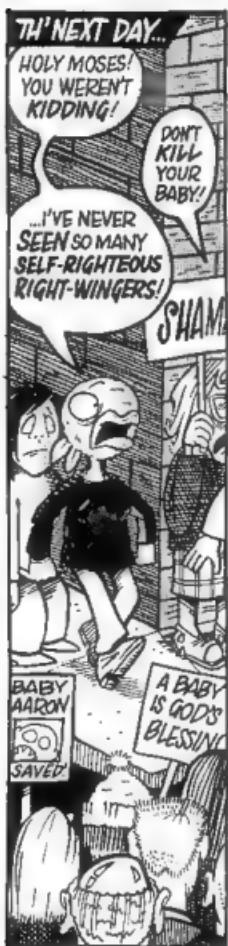


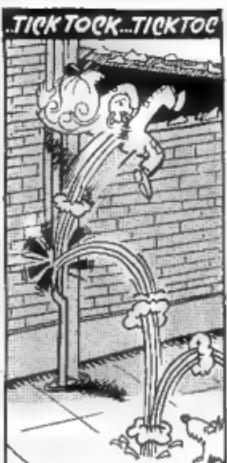
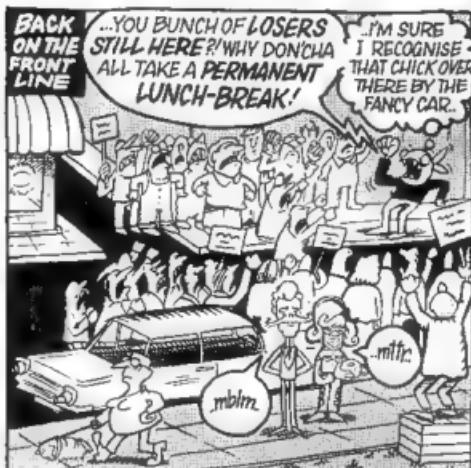


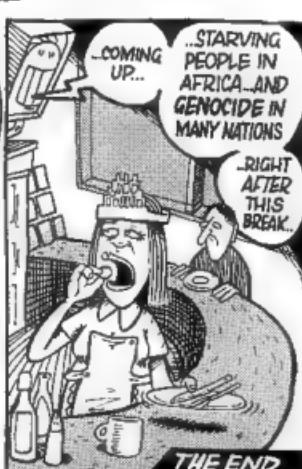












# THE VERY FIRST APPEARANCE OF... ACTION GIRL



## ACTION GIRL GOES SKA!

## ACTION GIRL FIGHTS EVIL!



DESIGN A COLOR SCHEME FOR ACTION GIRLS' BATTLES AGAINST EVIL!!

## CUT and COLOR ACTIVITY PAGE

get your crayons!  
get your scissors!

### ACTION GIRL STAYS HOME



Action boots! \$9 from thrift shop - go with all action outfits and outlast Docs.

Huge, comfy and optional (weather-depending) t-shirt. All cotton, well used but not washed enough. Color well-worn and faded. 10thbro.

### ACTION GIRL GOES TO MOM'S



## OH NO!! ACTION GIRL WAS DRAWN BY A GUY!!

Save her now!!



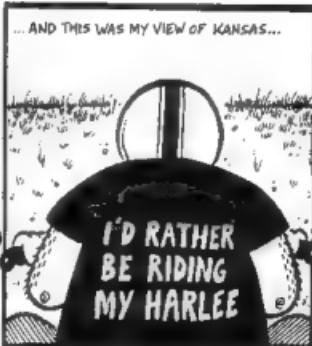
# GWEN and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance

by Jennifer Sorensen

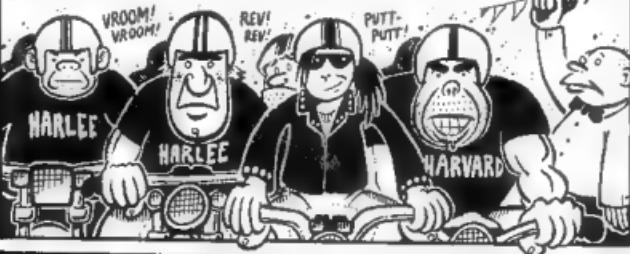
THIS WAS MY VIEW OF ALBUQUERQUE...

...AND THIS WAS MY VIEW OF KANSAS...

...AND THIS WAS MY VIEW OF NEW YORK CITY...



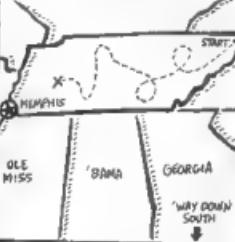
WITHIN A MATTER OF MINUTES, WE WERE REVVING OUR ENGINE ON THE STARTING LINE AMIDST A HORDE OF BIKERS HUNGRY FOR SPEED!



WE QUICKLY SURGED AHEAD OF THE PACK, BUT WE COULDN'T SHAKE JOCKO AND TRIXIE, THIS BIG-HAIRED COUPLE WITH A SOUPED-UP CYCLE!



MILES AND MILES PASSED US BY WITH JOCKO AND TRIXIE STILL BY OUR SIDE. MEMPHIS WAS DRAWING NEAR!



AS WE APPROACHED THE FINISH LINE, JOCKO BEGAN TO TAUNT BIFF!



THAT DID IT! I JAMMED THE ACCELERATOR AS HARD AS I COULD!



SUDDENLY, SOMETHING BEGAN TO HAPPEN: THE HIGH-SPEED SHUDDERING OF THE CYCLE. \*



FOR A FEW MOMENTS OF ECSTASY, I BECAME OBLIVIOUS TO ALL TIME AND SPACE!

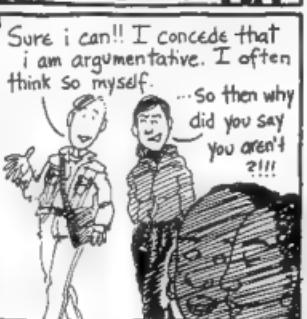
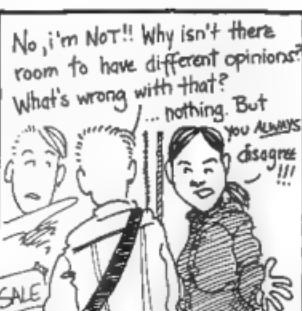


C R A S H!



... AND SO BEGAN MY LONG AND ILLUSTRIOS CAREER IN HIGH-SPEED MOTORCYCLE RACING!





# Your Hostesses:



**Kris Dresen** is an illustrator currently working on a "huge" textbook project, using cartoons to teach kids. She's also the co-founder of Vagabond press, from which you can procure some more of her work, including mini's *Manya*, *Harsh* and a selection of "poetry" minis. Send \$2 for *Manya* or *Harsh*, or all of the poetry minis, or just send a postcard to get a catalog from: Vagabond Press, 2300 N. Clybourn Ave, Suite #2, Chicago IL 60614.



**Elizabeth Watasin** is a professional artist living in L.A. All she wants to do is daydream the live long days away and make being forlorn an art form. And watch cartoons. Her work has appeared in the back pages of *Strangers in Paradise*. Her own mini-comic, *Adventures of A-Girl!* (issues 1-3, plus *A-Girl Etc!*, a compilation of reader's cartoons) is available for \$1 ppd each from Elizabeth at: 120 So. San Fernando Blvd #231, Burbank, CA 91502.



**Leanne Franson** is a Bi Canadian cartoonist/illustrator, born in Regina (Sask.) and now in Montréal with her two cats. She's currently exploring England with a four-year work visa but promises to keep up with her self-publishing schedule. Her work has appeared in countless publications, including: *GirlFrenzy*, *Mousie*, *Dyke's Delight*, *GirlJock*, the *Houston Voice*, the *Las Vegas Bugle*, *Utne Reader*, *Real Girl*, *Brat Attack* and the book *What is this thing called SEX?* Her own long-running series, *Liliane*, is available from her for \$1.50 (postpaid) per copy — there are 25 issues out now, so order "most recent" or send a SASE for a catalogue to: PO Box 274, Succ. Place Du Parc, Montréal, Québec, H2W 2N8 CANADA



**Chantale Doyle** is a French-Canadian self-publisher who is currently taking a year-long sabbatical to work on her drawing. (Something that people who need it a lot more never seem to do.) She has suspended her acclaimed mini-comic *Misery & Vomit*, but until she begins publishing again, you can get the "best of" *Misery & Vomit* for \$3 ppd, as well as *Mesmerize* (a fumetti) for \$5 ppd. Order from: Chantale, Box 42033, Montréal, Québec, H2W 2T3, and keep your eye out for her stuff!



**Patty Leidy** is currently living in Atlanta hobnobbing with other cartoonists and hitting every coffee shop in search of that perfect atmosphere conducive to great comic stories. A Hello Kitty nut since 1980 and collector of pez and all things strange (as if you hadn't guessed). Her work has appeared in *Dog Soup*, *Naughty Bits*, and a local paper, *Drawl*. Her solo book (32 pp., fullsize) is now available for \$3 + 3 stamps from: 985 Greenwood Ave NE #2, Atlanta GA 30306. Send strange toys and get a free drawing!



**Carolyn Ridsdale** is an Australian ex-patriate now living in Amsterdam after serving time as an illustrator & comic strip creator in London. She appears regularly in *Girlfrenzy* and *Fanny*, and has recently self-published her first comic, *Moist* #0, which boasts the most succulently screen-printed cover around some of her best-known work (including more *Fishead* stories). Available from Slab-O-Concrete, PO Box 148, Hove, BN3 3DQ, UK for (US)\$5. (Includes postage.)

# Your Hostesses:



**Sarah Dyer** is a frenetic over-worked Sanrio addict transplanted to New York and suffering through the winter. Her work has appeared in obscure zines and on hard-to-find album covers, and, well, okay, *Disney Adventures*. For a catalog of all of Sarah's self-publishing (including: the music/essay zine *Mad Planet*; the personal *Kikizine*; and all the components of the *Action Girl* empire) send a SASE to: P.O. Box 060380, Staten Island, NY 10306 (PLEASE NOTE NEW BOX NUMBER!!)



**Jennifer Sorensen** is a hard-working 3rd year student at the University of Virginia whose work has appeared in their collective (and highly recommended) U. of V. comic anthology, *Zero*. Issues 1 and 2 are available from Null Set Publications, 134 Tucker, Newcomb Hall Station, Charlottesville VA 22904-0061.

## Action Girl

COMICS  
number 2

MEGAN  
KELSO  
Short Story

ARIEL  
BORDEAUX  
Radar Rink

JESSICA  
ABEL  
Cover Girl

CAROLYN  
RIDSDALE  
Pitiedand's  
Romance

\$2.50



Art: Carol Seatory, Sarah Dyer, Patty  
Leidy, Elizabeth Watasin and myself.

## Next Issue:

*Issue three promises to be an incredible one—I'm probably looking forward to it more than you are! The cover (at left) is a beautiful full-color affair, designed & executed by me with a lovely illustration courtesy of Jessica Abel (sadly absent from this issue). Inside, another batch of pages from all your favorite female comix types—a brand-new story by Megan Kelso, a new one by Carolyn Ridsdale, the first appearance in Action Girl Comics by Ariel Bordeaux, a new story by Jessica Abel, work by Patty Leidy, Carol Seatory, Elizabeth Watasin and myself. And on the back, a full-color Action Girl comic!! It will be out in April, and there's no reason your comic shop can't pre-order it for you. And don't forget about issue one—if you missed it, ask your shop to get it or order direct from Slave! ♥ Sarah*

And now I'd like to present the *Action Girl Comics* official t-shirt, featuring our favorite heroine, Action Girl herself, and drawn as a present for me by honorary action boy Evan Dorkin. Proclaim your hipness, your intelligence, and your loyalty to Action Girl all at once by wearing this awesome shirt. (And I think you'll probably not be seeing it on too many other people.) Printed in a fabulous shade of Power Purple on white, sizes medium through extra-large. (Note: girls; I'm 5'10" and I may be on the skinny side but even the medium isn't tight on me. If you've got a small frame you'll be swimming. I recommend ordering smaller than you might think you need.) Be the first on your block to sport this hallmark of true coolness. Also, there is a black-and-white sticker of this design, pretty good sized, too (about 3" x 5"!). And you can get it absolutely free by just sending in the coupon on the back of this page. You'll also get a (free) catalog from Slave Labor to make ordering that much easier. And if you do want to order a shirt or comic, you can do it when you send in your coupon. C'mon, you know you want to!



## Action Girl

# further reading:

Obviously, the first recommendation I have is the other issues of *Action Girl Comics*. Issue one is still available and features artists Jessica Abel, Elizabeth Watasin, Leanne Franson, Megan Kelso, Jennifer Sorensen, and of course, me, among others. Issue three (info p. 23) will be out in April and I beg you to ask your store to order it -- we need retailer support!

**Mini-comics:** Most *AGC* contributors have fantastic minis available, which you'll see listed in their bios. But I haven't gotten any others since I did the last issue. Girls who do mini-comics -- please write! Your name could be here!

**On the non-mini side of things:** Roberta Gregory's *Naughty Bits* (published by Fantagraphics) has a new issue out and is staying on it's regular schedule. Roberta's work is great and very accessible whatever your generation. I just did a long interview with Roberta which appears in the new issue of *Mad Planet* (order from me for \$1 ppd). Japanese wunderkind Rumiko Takahashi doesn't just do the wildly popular *Ranma 1/2* (published by Viz). Her other translated works are becoming more popular and available too -- try *Maison Ikkoku* for the kind of romantic comedy you can't get here, or any of the *Mermaid* series for a new take on horror. Speaking of manga by women, Viz will be publishing the second in their series of Japanese "women's" comics this February which I suggest you look out for -- it's called *They Were 11*. Speaking of women's comics, the Canadian magazine *Oh...* has become a quarterly comic showcasing one artist per issue. #9 features the "tomboy" stories of Dianne Reum and is a really funny read. Issue #10 will be out in Feb 95 and will feature England's *Tristram Puppy* -- judging by the short preview it should be quite good as well. An excellent co-ed effort I'd like to mention is *Very Vicki* (published by Meet Danny Ocean) by Jana Christy & John Mitchell (I think she draws & he writes). Recent issues have revolved around a hip, drunken *Mad Mad Mad Mad World* sort of thing. *VV* is hipstered to the limit.

**Girl-friendly by guys:** lots of guys do comics that are relevant and interesting to women. I mentioned *Love & Rockets* (Jaime & Gilbert Hernandez, Fantagraphics) and *Hectic Planet* (Evan Dorkin, Slave Labor) last time and continue to recommend them. To start, pick up any recent *L&R*, or *HP* (aka *Pirate Corp\$*) #5. I don't know how I forgot to mention the amazing *Mad Love*, by Paul Dini & Bruce Timm (from DC, in the *Batman Adventures* line). Great story about a totally dysfunctional relationship and beautiful art. Any other *Batman Adventures* special by Paul & Bruce is a definite must as well. And even though they're not nearly as good, I continue to buy any issue of the regular *Batman Adventures* series featuring girl characters. A good way to get a non-annoying superhero dose! *Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind* by Japanese animation great Hayao Miyazaki is finally finishing up through Viz -- the art is amazing, and Nausicaä is the ultimate girl hero of all time. If you've never heard of Nausicaä, you should probably look for the paperback collections first instead of jumping in towards the end.

Finally, I'd like to point out that when comics were in their heyday, there were a lot of comics oriented towards women and girls, and comics in general were a lot more friendly (and comics creators were a lot more talented). While "collector's" copies of old comics are totally overpriced, banged up "reader's" copies are often available in back issue bins of shops or at conventions for \$1 or less. The bonafide romance comics are only good for a laugh, but there's lots of other cool stuff you can find. Great girl stuff: *Little Lulu*, *Little Dot*, old Archie comics (like pre-65), and lots of other characters -- just look! Superheroines: there were a lot more of them back then, and they all dressed sensibly. A great comic to look for is *Avengers* #83, "the Revolution's Fine" a story about the short-lived all-female Lady Liberators (members: Scarlet Witch, Medusa, Wasp, Valkyrie, Black Widow). The story's a little sexist, true, but what a cast! And while Wonder Woman's gone through her bad eras, in general there's a lot of solid story in there. (And I am personally seeking issues from the short-lived "mod" era WW -- if you have any you'd like to sell cheap please write!) If you know of any comics you think I should list, please send them to me or let me know about them -- I'm always looking for new cool stuff. That's it for now. 'Til next time...make mine hello kitty!

## Would you like more action girl stuff?

If you simply fill out this coupon (or a copy of it) and mail it to Slave Labor, you will receive a **FREE!** Action Girl sticker (of the cool t-shirt design) and a Slave Labor catalog, featuring several of the titles mentioned above. Trust me, this sticker is more than worth a 29¢ 32¢ stamp!! (Oops -- have to get used to that...) Fill out and send to: Slave Labor Graphics, 979 S. Bascom Ave, San Jose CA 95128.

my name: \_\_\_\_\_

my address: \_\_\_\_\_

city: \_\_\_\_\_ state: \_\_\_\_\_ zip: \_\_\_\_\_

I can't wait to get my free sticker and Slave Labor catalog! Also, please send me the following:

\_\_\_\_ additional copy/copies of *Action Girl Comics* #2 ..... \$2.50 plus postage  
\_\_\_\_ copy/copies of *Action Girl Comics* #1 (I missed it, waah!) ..... \$2.50 plus postage  
a fabulous Action Girl t-shirt, size  Medium  Large  X-Large ..... \$13.99 plus postage

(Make checks/money orders out to Slave Labor Graphics. Enclose \$1.50 postage for the first book, 25¢ for each additional book; \$2 for the first shirt, \$1 for each one after that.)

JUST WHEN YOU THOUGHT THE COMIC BOOK INDUSTRY WAS SAFE

# A.P.E. II

A one day exhibit of self-publishers, small publishers and alternative cartoonists.



ALTERNATIVE  
PRESS EXPO

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Call 1-800-866-8929 for details.